

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Original) A powder metal composition for producing powder metal components comprising a Co-based pre-alloyed powder, with irregularly shaped particles comprising at least 15% by weight Cr and less than 0.3% by weight C, admixed with graphite.

Claim 2. (Original) A powder metal composition according to claim 1 further comprising at least one element selected from the group consisting of W and Mo.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A powder metal composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, further comprising at least one alloying element selected from Ni, Fe, Si, Mn, V and B.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A powder metal composition according to ~~any one of the claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder ~~preferably~~ is less than 0.1% by weight, ~~and most preferably less than 0.05% by weight.~~

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A powder metal composition according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, comprising: 15-35% by weight Cr, 0-20% by weight W, 0-25% by weight Ni, 0-5% by weight Si, 0-5% by weight Fe, 0-10% by weight Mo, the balance being Co.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A powder metal composition according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, wherein the content of admixed graphite is preferably at least 0.5% by weight, ~~more preferably at least 0.7% by weight.~~

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of the above claims~~ claim 1, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of lubricants, processing aids alloying elements and binders.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a component of a Co-based alloy with high green strength and high green density comprising the steps:

a) providing a powder metal composition comprising a Co-based pre-alloyed powder, with irregularly shaped particles comprising at least 15% by weight Cr and less than 0.3% by weight C, admixed with graphite; and

b) compacting the composition in a die at a pressure of at least 400 MPa to a component of desired shape.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 8, wherein the pre-alloyed powder contains less than 0.1% by weight C, ~~preferably less than 0.05% by weight C.~~

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~claims 8 or 9~~ claim 8, wherein the content of admixed graphite is at least 0.5% by weight, ~~preferably at least 0.7% by weight.~~

Claim 11. (Original) Method for producing a sintered component of a Co-based powder metal composition comprising, in addition to step a) and b) according to claim 8 the step:

c) sintering the component.

Claim 12. (Original) Method according to claim 11, wherein the sintering is performed at a temperature of at least 1080°C in a protective atmosphere or vacuum.

Claim 13. (Original) A Co-based pre-alloyed powder with irregularly shaped particles comprising at least 15% by weight Cr and less than 0.3% by weight C.

Claim 14. (New) A powder metal composition according to claim 2, further comprising at least one alloying element selected from Ni, Fe, Si, Mn, V and B.

Claim 15. (New) A powder metal composition according to claim 2, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder is less than 0.1% by weight.

Claim 16. (New) A powder metal composition according to claim 3, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder is less than 0.1% by weight.

Claim 17. (New) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of C in the pre-alloyed powder is less than 0.05% by weight.

Claim 18. (New) A powder metal composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the admixed graphite is at least 0.7% by weight.

Claim 19. (New) Method according to claim 8, wherein the pre-alloyed powder contains less than 0.05% by weight C.

Claim 20. (New) Method according to claim 9, wherein the content of admixed graphite is at least 0.5% by weight.

Claim 21. (New) Method according to claim 8, wherein the content of the admixed graphite is at least 0.7% by weight.

Claim 22. (New) Method according to claim 9, wherein the content of the admixed graphite is at least 0.7% by weight.